

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A spray head comprising:

a plurality of fluidic oscillators, each oscillator having a body member with top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces, each oscillator having a fluidic circuit embedded in said top surface, said circuit forming a path in which a fluid may flow through said oscillator, each said fluidic circuit having a fluid inlet, a power nozzle, an interaction chamber and an outlet in said front surface from which a fluid may exit said oscillator,

wherein said oscillators being stacked one on top of the other,

wherein said body member being configured so that said oscillators stack such that the flow of fluid from adjoining oscillators in said stack have an angle of divergence between the centerlines of the planes defined by the flows from the outlets of said adjoining oscillators.

2. A spray head as recited in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of cover plates, wherein each said cover plate is configured, and is proximate the top surface of one of said fluidic oscillators, and is attached to said oscillator so as to provide a seal against the leakage of fluid from the top surface of said oscillator.

3. A spray head as recited in claim 2 further comprising a carrier assembly having a front and a rear surface and a cavity extending between said assembly surfaces, wherein said cavity configured so to receive and hold said stack of fluidic oscillators.

4. A spray head as recited in claim 3 further comprising a stopper unit that attaches to the rear surface of said assembly so as to provide a seal against the leakage of fluid from said assembly rear surface.

5. A spray head as recited in claim 1 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range of 2 – 5 degrees.

6. A spray head as recited in claim 2 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range of 2 – 5 degrees.

7. A spray head as recited in claim 3 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range of 2 – 5 degrees.

1 8. A method of forming a fluid spray whose droplets cover a specified surface area
2 having a prescribed width and height, said area located at a prescribed distance in
3 front of a spray head emitting said fluid spray, said method comprising the steps of:

4 stacking a plurality of fluidic oscillators one on top of the other, each
5 oscillator having a body member with top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces,
6 each oscillator having a fluidic circuit embedded in said top surface, said circuit
7 forming a path in which a fluid may flow through said oscillator, each said fluidic
8 circuit having a fluid inlet, a power nozzle, an interaction chamber and an outlet
9 having a prescribed fan angle in said front surface from which a fluid may exit said
10 oscillator,

11 configuring said body members of said oscillator stack such that the flow of
12 fluid from adjoining oscillators in said stack have a specified angle of divergence
13 between the centerlines of the planes defined by the flows from the outlets of said
14 adjoining oscillators,

15 selecting said fan angles of said oscillators so as to yield said prescribed spray
16 width,

17 selecting said specified angle of divergence and the number of said fluidic
18 oscillators in said stack so as to yield said prescribed spray height.

19 9. A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a plurality
20 of cover plates, wherein each said cover plate is configured, and is proximate the top
21 surface of one of said fluidic oscillators, and is attached to said oscillator so as to
22 provide a seal against the leakage of fluid from the top surface of said oscillator.

23 10. A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of providing a carrier
24 assembly having a front and a rear surface and a cavity extending between said
25 assembly surfaces, wherein said cavity configured so to receive and hold said stack of
26 fluidic oscillators.

27 11. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range of
28 2 – 5 degrees.

29 12. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range of
30 2 – 5 degrees.

1 13. A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range
2 of 2 – 5 degrees.

3 14. A method of providing a fluid spray at a flow rate in the range of approximately
4 1.2 – 1.9 gpm that yields massaging, tactile sensations, as the droplets of said spray
5 impact upon the skin of one in the line of flight of said spray, which are comparable
6 to those produced by non-fluidic, generated sprays operating in the range of
7 approximately 2.0 - 2.5 gpm, said method comprising the steps of:

8 stacking a plurality of fluidic oscillators one on top of the other, each
9 oscillator having a body member with top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces,
10 each oscillator having a fluidic circuit embedded in said top surface, said circuit
11 forming a path in which a fluid may flow through said oscillator, each said fluidic
12 circuit having a fluid inlet, a power nozzle, an interaction chamber and an outlet in
13 said front surface from which a fluid may exit said oscillator, said circuit emitting an
14 effective string of fluid droplets that are swept from side-to-side at a prescribed
15 frequency which is dependent upon said circuit geometry,

16 configuring said body members of said oscillator stack such that the flow of
17 fluid from adjoining oscillators in said stack have a specified angle of divergence
18 between the centerlines of the planes defined by the flows from the outlets of said
19 adjoining oscillators,

20 selecting said prescribed frequencies of said oscillators to be in the range
21 between 10 cps and 60 cps.

22 15. A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of providing a
23 plurality of cover plates, wherein each said cover plate is configured, and is
24 proximate the top surface of one of said fluidic oscillators, and is attached to said
25 oscillator so as to provide a seal against the leakage of fluid from the top surface of
26 said oscillators.

27 16. A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising the step of providing a carrier
28 assembly having a front and a rear surface and a cavity extending between said
29 assembly surfaces, wherein said cavity configured so to receive and hold said stack of
30 fluidic oscillators.

1 17. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range
2 of 2 – 5 degrees.

3 18. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range
4 of 2 – 5 degrees.

5 19. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range
6 of 2 – 5 degrees.

7 20. A method of providing a fluid spray at a flow rate in the range of approximately
8 1.2 – 1.9 gpm that yields massaging, tactile sensations, as the droplets of said spray
9 impact upon the skin of one in the line of flight of said spray, which are comparable
10 to those produced by non-fluidic generated sprays operating in the range of
11 approximately 2.0 - 2.5 gpm, said method comprising the steps of:

12 using a fluidic oscillator to generate said spray,

13 wherein said fluidic oscillator configured so as to provide a spray which
14 exhibits an oscillation frequency in the range of 10 - 60 cps.

15 21. A method of providing a fluid spray that yields massaging, tactile sensations, as
16 the droplets of said spray impact upon the skin of one in the line of flight of said
17 spray, said method comprising the steps of:

18 using a fluidic oscillator to generate said spray,

19 wherein said fluidic oscillator configured so as to provide a spray which
20 exhibits an oscillation frequency in the range of 10 - 60 cps.

21 22. A method of providing a fluid spray at a specified flow rate that feels, as the
22 droplets of said spray impact upon the skin of a bather in the line of flight of said
23 spray, to a bather using said spray that said spray is being delivered at a higher flow
24 rate than said specified flow rate at which said spray is being operated, said method
25 comprising the steps of:

26 using a fluidic oscillator to generate said spray,

27 wherein said fluidic oscillator configured so as to provide a spray which
28 exhibits an oscillation frequency of greater than 60 cps.

29 23. A method of providing a multi-functional spray head, said method comprising
30 the steps of:

1 stacking a plurality of fluidic oscillators one on top of the other, each
2 oscillator having a body member with top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces,
3 each oscillator having a fluidic circuit embedded in said top surface, said circuit
4 forming a path in which a fluid may flow through said oscillator, each said fluidic
5 circuit having a fluid inlet, a power nozzle, an interaction chamber and an outlet
6 having a prescribed fan angle in said front surface from which a fluid may exit said
7 oscillator,

8 configuring said body members of said oscillator stack such that the flow of
9 fluid from adjoining oscillators in said stack have a specified angle of divergence
10 between the centerlines of the planes defined by the flows from the outlets of said
11 adjoining oscillators,

12 surrounding said stack of fluidic oscillators with a plurality of orifices that
13 emit fluid sprays formed by other than the use of fluidic oscillators.

14 24. A spray head comprising:

15 a plurality of fluidic oscillators, each oscillator having a body member with
16 top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces, each oscillator having a fluidic circuit
17 embedded in said top surface, said circuit forming a path in which a fluid may flow
18 through said oscillator, each said fluidic circuit having a fluid inlet, a power nozzle,
19 an interaction chamber and an outlet in said front surface from which a fluid may exit
20 said oscillator,

21 a carrier assembly having a front and a rear surface and a plurality of slots
22 which are aligned one above the other with each slot extending between said
23 assembly surfaces, wherein each of said slots configured so to receive and hold one of
24 said fluidic oscillators, wherein each of said slots having a centerline,

25 wherein said carrier assembly being further configured so that said slot
26 centerlines align such that the flow of fluid from adjoining oscillators in said slots
27 have an angle of divergence between the centerlines of the planes defined by the
28 flows from the outlets of said adjoining oscillators.

29 25. A spray head as recited in claim 24 wherein said angle of divergence is in the
30 range of 2 – 5 degrees.

31 26. A method of forming a fluid spray comprising the steps of:

1 assembling a plurality of fluidic oscillators, each oscillator having a body
2 member with top, bottom, side, front and rear outer surfaces, each oscillator having a
3 fluidic circuit embedded in said top surface, said circuit forming a path in which a
4 fluid may flow through said oscillator, each said fluidic circuit having a fluid inlet, a
5 power nozzle, an interaction chamber and an outlet in said front surface from which a
6 fluid may exit said oscillator,

7 fabricating a carrier assembly having a front and a rear surface and a plurality
8 of slots which are aligned one above the other with each slot extending between said
9 assembly surfaces, wherein each of said slots configured so to receive and hold one of
10 said fluidic oscillators, wherein each of said slots having a centerline,

11 wherein said carrier assembly being further configured so that said slot
12 centerlines align such that the flow of fluid from adjoining oscillators in said slots
13 have an angle of divergence between the centerlines of the planes defined by the
14 flows from the outlets of said adjoining oscillators.

15 27. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein said angle of divergence is in the range
16 of 2 – 5 degrees.

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